
12. A method of making a composite fabric comprising the steps of:

forming an arrangement of fibers in contact with composite yarns wherein the composite yarns comprising an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 10°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core and wherein the sheath does not include thermosetting material;

C1 heating the arrangement of fibers and composite yarns to a temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point temperature of the core of the composite yarns whereby said fibers are attached to said sheath; and

cooling the composite fabric.

17. A method of making a composite pile fabric comprising the steps of:

C2 forming an arrangement of composite yarns as ground warp yarns and filling yarns and yarns as pile wherein the composite yarns each comprise an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core and wherein the sheath does not include thermosetting material;

heating the arrangement of yarns and composite yarns to a temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point temperature of the core of the composite yarns; and

cooling the composite fabric.

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Please add new claims 20- 24 as follows:

C3 20. A method of making a composite fabric comprising the steps of:

forming an arrangement of fibers in contact with composite yarns wherein the composite yarns consisting essentially of an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 10°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core;

heating the arrangement of fibers and composite yarns to a temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point temperature of the core of the composite yarns whereby said fibers are attached to said sheath; and

cooling the composite fabric.

C3
cont

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the forming step comprises weaving.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the forming step comprises pile weaving whereby ground warp yarns and filling yarns comprising the composite yarns are interlaced with a pile of conventional fibers.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the pile is interlaced in a "V" or "W" configuration so the pile are wrapped around either one or three composite yarns of the ground warp yarns or the filling yarns or both.
